

REAPING THE FRUIT

What the Wilson Tariff Bill Has Done for the Country in a Year.

A PROMISE WELL FULFILLED.

Results Contrasted With the First Year of the McKinley Law. Wages Higher and Necessaries of Life Cheaper—No Reduction of Wage Reported Anywhere.

The New York World on Aug. 28 printed a comparison of the Wilson and McKinley tariff laws, showing what each had accomplished in the first year of its existence, from which the following extract is taken:

The Wilson tariff law is one year old today. The purpose of its framers was "to decrease taxes on the necessities of life, to stimulate competition and encourage industry." Some of the provisions of the law did not become operative until Jan. 1. In every item and every schedule the law has been in full operation since then. Every week since that date has witnessed an improvement in business. There has been a continued increase in the number of hands employed in the great productive industries, a steady improvement in consumption and a remarkable rise in wages.

Two months ago The World printed a detailed list of the establishments in which more than 250,000 American workmen had received voluntary increases of wages in the previous 60 days. Every day now brings fresh reports of new increases in wages, and every state and territory in the United States shares in the better times. No reductions in wages are reported anywhere, and fewer failures are noted than for ten years past.

So much for the rewards of labor under the Wilson tariff law, which is only one year old today. But steady employment at fair wages was only half the promise the new law was expected to fulfill. It was also to decrease the cost of all the common necessities of life. To ascertain whether it has done so, The World collected from the greatest dress goods, grocery, metal and other jobbers price lists showing in detail, item by item, the quotations for over 1,000 articles in largest general use today, as compared with the price lists for the same articles in 1891-2.

The latter prices represent the ruling quotations when the McKinley law of October, 1890, was as old as the Wilson law is today. That was as long before the panic of 1893 as the present day is after it. The comparison is therefore absolutely fair.

The effect of the Wilson tariff on retail prices has been that most of the necessities of life are from 10 to 35 per cent cheaper. The following are some of the average reductions as shown in the table of prices:

Cotton goods reduced about 14 per cent.

Canned goods reduced about 19 per cent.

Canned fish reduced about 9 per cent.

Tea, coffee, spices, etc., reduced about 15 per cent.

Raisins, nuts and sundry fruits reduced about 15 per cent.

Wool reduced about 35 per cent.

Butter reduced about 19 per cent.

Under the Wilson tariff there has been a marked increase in wages and an equally striking decrease in the price of almost everything the wage earner has to buy. As to the actual results of the McKinley and the Wilson tariff laws, here are some striking comparisons:

TWO KINDS OF TARIFF.

Wilson, Dem. McKinley, Rep. CARNEGIE STEEL WORKS, HOMESTEAD, PA. May, 1895, wages of January, 1891, wages all employees in every reduced 9 per cent. February, 1891, 4,000 men out of work.

April, 1891, another reduction of 1 per cent.

August, 1891, open hearth department closed.

July, 1892, 3,800 men strike against another heat department. Seven steel works, etc., too.

ILLINOIS STEEL WORKS, CHICAGO. June 20, 1895, 7,000 men, wages increased 10 per cent. August, 1891, wages about 35 per cent.

August, 1892, workmen in finishing department accepted reduction of 10 per cent.

July, 1892, 45 per cent reduction offered and refused and mills shut down.

August, 1892, a reduction of 25 per cent accepted by the men.

PENNSYLVANIA STEEL WORKS, PELSTON, PA. June 15, 1895, wages of January, 1891, all of 4,000 employees worked until increased 10 per cent.

ILLINOIS STEEL COMPANY, JOLIET, ILL. June, 1895, an increase of 10 per cent given to 5,000 men refuse to accept a reduction in wages.

July, 1892, 45 per cent reduction offered and refused and mills shut down.

August, 1892, a reduction of 25 per cent accepted by the men.

PENNSYLVANIA COMPANY, LEBANON, PA. June, 1895, a 10 per cent increase given to 5,000 men.

LACKAWANNA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, SCRANTON. June, 1895, wages of August, 1891, lower mill shut down.

READING IRON COMPANY, READING, PA. June, 1895, the wages of April, 1891, wages increased 10 per cent.

April, 1892, further reduction in other mills of from 5 to 10 percent.

JUNIOR VALLEY FURNACES, YOUNGSTOWN, O. June, 1895, two in January, 1891, 15 percent each given and several thousand men out of work.

June, 1891, a reduction of from 7 to 12 per cent.

WAGE REDUCTIONS:
BETHLEHEM IRON WORKS, BETHLEHEM, PA. May, 1895, the wages of December, 1890, over 2,000 men advanced 1,000 men out of work.

January, 1891, a reduction of 10 per cent.

June, 1895, a second increase of from 5 to 10 per cent was announced after Feb. 1.

POTTERY TRUST, THIRTON.

June, 1895, an increase of from 10 to 15 per cent in wages announced.

COTTON AND WOOLEN MILLS, WEBSTER, MASS. April, 1895, wages ad-

vanced 10 per cent, running on three-quarters time.

ACUSHNET MILLS, NEW BEDFORD, MASS. January, 1895, wages voluntarily advanced 10 per cent.

WOOLSEY MILLS, OLNEYVILLE, R. I. April, 1895, a small increase of wages reduced by a change of working schedule.

WOOLSEY MILLS, OLNEYVILLE, R. I. April, 1895, wages ad-

vanced 10 per cent, running on three-quarters time.

WASHINGTON WOOLEN MILLS, LAWRENCE, MASS. April, 1895, wages of December, 1890, mills nearly 4,000 men ad-

closed.

WOOLSEY MILLS, OLNEYVILLE, R. I. April, 1895, wages ad-

vanced 10 per cent, running on three-quarters time.

COTTON MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION, FALL RIVER, MASS. April, 1895, old scale wages restored.

WOOLSEY MILLS, OLNEYVILLE, R. I. April, 1895, wages ad-

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